

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

Please amend Claims 8 and 12 and add new Claim 18 as follows.

1 - 7. (Canceled)

8. (Currently Amended) An image forming apparatus comprising:

a rotatable image bearing member for bearing an electrostatic image;

a first developer carrying member for carrying a developer and developing the electrostatic image, which is opposed to the image bearing member with a first gap;

a first pair of regulating members-for regulating the first gap, said first pair of regulating members being in contact with one end portion and the other end portion in a rotation axial direction of said image bearing member, respectively;

a second developer carrying member for carrying a developer and developing the electrostatic image, which is disposed downstream of said first developer carrying member in a rotating direction of said image bearing member and is opposed to the image bearing member with a second gap; and

a second pair of regulating members-for regulating the second gap, said second pair of regulating members being in contact with one end portion and the other end portion in the rotation axial direction of said-the rotation axial direction of said image bearing member, respectively,

wherein positions, ~~with~~ at which said first pair of regulating members are in contact, ~~of~~  
~~with~~ said image bearing member do not overlap with positions, with which said second pair of  
regulating members are in contact, of said image bearing member in the rotation axial direction  
of said image bearing member are longitudinally displaced from positions at which said second  
pair of regulating members are in contact with said image bearing member.

9. (Canceled)

10. (Previously Presented) The apparatus according to claim 8, further comprising a  
developer container, which contains a developer, and which has said first developer carrying  
member disposed in an opening portion opposite to said image bearing member,

wherein said second developer carrying member is disposed in said opening portion  
with a gap between said first developer carrying member and said second developer carrying  
member, and carries the developer with a layer thickness which is restricted by the gap.

11. (Original) The apparatus according to claim 10, wherein a rotation direction of  
said first developer carrying member is the same as a rotation direction of said second developer  
carrying member.

12. (Previously Presented) The apparatus according to claim 11, wherein in a first  
developing area, a movement direction of a surface of said first developer carrying member is the

same as the movement direction of the surface of said image bearing member, and in ~~a~~ the second developing area, a movement direction of a surface of said second developer carrying member is the same as the movement direction of the surface of said image bearing member.

13. (Previously Presented) The apparatus according to claim 12, wherein in the first developing area, a peripheral speed of said first developer carrying member is higher than a peripheral speed of said image bearing member, and

wherein in the second developing area, a peripheral speed of said second developer carrying member is higher than the peripheral speed of said image bearing member.

14 - 17. (Canceled)

18. (Previously Presented) The apparatus according to Claim 8, wherein a distance between said second pair of regulating members is shorter than a distance between said first pair of regulating members.